Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee Meeting
June 29-30, 1999.

Day #1, June 29th:
9:30:

- Introductions and review of last meeting.
- Discussion about a possible 1-2 day instructional class for lawyers and consultants on hydric soil indicators.
- Marty and Bruce will do a study of the yellow soils.
- There is concern about the F1 indicator and how soils that are not hydric are meeting the standards.
- Carl will write up the A7 vs. F1 article

10:15: Web update:

- Should add U of Maryland and U of Delaware.
- Should start with "Welcome to the Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee" or the like.
- Missing Links: NRCS of each state--Maps. SWS. Put the national Hydric Soil Members names there? Ground water site (Rick Brown). HGM reference sites. Other reference sites.
- Marty will write about 'Yellow' parent material.

Ground Water Data

- Maybe we could get ground water data from people at universities and post it for everyone, maybe we could all share? Bruce says that many people do not want their research in progress, because it could be misused.
- We could put in wells all over.
- Penn State has a nice web site for well data.

10:45:Marty Rabenhorst- 'Yellow Parent Material.'

- Marty wants to submit a proposal to study 'Yellow Parent Material'. 'Yellow' Parent Material soils can be easily misinterpreted--they have high water tables and no redoximorphic features. His proposal was given out. He wants to do a two year study of hydrology and weather and compare his findings to those of the last thirty years. His study will be in DE, MD, and PA. He wants to see why there are no redoximorphic features.
- Indicator study of species and where they grow.

11:25: Lenore- Recommended Standard Operating Procedures.

- She handed out a draft of a paper. She thinks that there are problems with the new technical standard. The two main problems are: The need for the presence of iron, and very acidic (<4.5) soils have an Eh threshold of 600 and people think that it should be lower. Everyone in the committee agrees that these are problems that must be fixed.

11:45: Marty Rabenhorst shows us graphs of water table heights.

12:30: Lunch and field study of sites with 'yellow parent material'.

Day #2, June 30th:

9:00: How do we deal with the 'yellow' problem soils:

- Talk to the Technical Standard people.
- Find good sites.
- Talk to other soils scientists and see if they have seen it.
- Maybe in the case of 'yellow' soils, indicators other than chroma and redoximorphic features should stand alone.
- Need to define 'Yellow Soils' in terms of geomorphic area.
- Maybe anything within 5 ft of mean low tide with sandy loam or softer and fac-wet or water community should be considered wet.
- Determine geographic setting and send it out to see if anyone else has seen it. Send it to State people, plus NRCS.
- Study it here.
- Lenore will call Wade. She will write the paragraph and let others read it and then send it out from the group. Letter will say, "We want to do a study, have you seen the 'yellow parent material'?" Marty will help Lenore.
- Jerry will talk to Steve. He and Leander will be contacts.
- Call Jim and ask how they dealt with 'yellow soils' in the Dorchester County Soil Survey.
- In Letter: Change 'Yellow' to 'High Chroma'. Explain setting and landscape.

9:45: Ed Stein

- Add the label to the map page in the hydric soils manual.
- Revision for A5
- Comments on A4. They have 16 inch spades and can not tell if the hydrogen sulfide smell is in the first 12 inches.
- They are finding Muck on well drained soils in frigid climates. (Catskills, Adirondacks, lowland areas there.)
- What is the difference between muck and saparic?
- Loamy material could appear like mucky modifier.
- He will send documentation to Lenore.
- Cold conditions make Organic indicators incorrect.
- Problem with TF2- Red Parent Material needs to be defined by more than a hue. Suggestions: maybe require a chroma of 3 or less, not four and 10% redoximorphic features, not 2%. Carl Robinette wants 10-20% redoximorphic. Al says to be careful with depletions.
- Ed Stein also doesn't see the difference between F5 and TF7.

10:45: Marty Rabenhorst discusses the Red Parent Material.

- He has computer graphs. He says that with a master code index above 40, you should not have a problem soil.

11:00: Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soil Book Update:

- Add the label to the map and make labels for what is revised.

11:05: Bruce: two studies

- Maybe Ectomycorrhizal fungi could help us determine relic hydric soils from non-relic hydric soils. He thinks there is a strong correlation
- Checking the indicator status of 14 species. They are using wetland, upland and middle land. They will do a frequency index. Areas: Pocamoc, Chesapeake Farms, Redden, Easterneck, etc.

11:30: Lenore: HGM

- Slope discard wetlands-either permanently saturated or seasonally saturated. They will look at mostly public lands from Bucks county, PA to Fort Picita, VA. They are hoping to get Volunteers, because they need help. John suggests using the Nasus Data Base. The goal of the project is eventually to have a guide book.

12:00:

- Ralph will update website.
- Kelly gave an update on the Wetlands Regulatory Workshop.
- Next meeting time will be Jan 11-12 in Norfolk VA.